

SHUT IN A MINE FOR FIVE DAYS.

FOR THREE DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER OR LIGHT.

ALL RESCUED ALIVE.

Three Miners Imprisoned by a Flood in an Old Gangway of the Susquehanna Coal Company's Mine at Nanticoke, Pa., Without Food or Water or Light for 110 Hours.

Peened in by the Water, Too Sulphurous to Drink, They Had to Sit Perched on a Narrow Plank in Constant Peril.

CRAIGIE'S MIND GAVE WAY FROM HIS GREAT SUFFERINGS.

But the Powerful Physique of John Rivers and Michael Schelling Kept Body and Mind Strong Throughout the Terrible Ordeal.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Feb. 9, 1891.—John Rivers, William Craigie and John W. Schelling were taken out of the old No. 3 mine of the Susquehanna Coal Company at Nanticoke at half-past six o'clock this morning, after five days' of such suffering as few men in this world ever experienced and survived.

At eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning they were closed in the mine by a rush of water from an abandoned working, and from that moment until this morning they had not a mouthful to eat nor a drop of water to drink as they sat in absolute darkness for 110 hours, supporting each other on a strip of plank not over five inches in width, unable to move and in momentary expectation of instant and horrible death.

During those long, dragging hours they sat there wedged from the waist to the feet in poisonous sulphurous water, cold as ice, shaking with chills, praying to God for relief or death, hoping against hope, thinking of wife, children, home and friends, and in a solitude and darkness absolute and complete.

The history of coal mining in this State offers no parallel to such suffering and endurance.

The experience of the five men shut in for five days at Sugar Notch in 1879 cannot be compared with it.

Those men had water and light and the carcass of a mule to enable them to sustain life.

They had plenty of room to move about, to lie down and rest and to walk for exercise.

These men had none of these helps.

Their condition was the most awful and trying that could be pictured.

To move meant to precipitate instant death.

Cramped and huddled together on a narrow plank they lived, but can hardly say how they survived.

WHERE THEY WERE SHUT IN.

The circumstances of their imprisonment were peculiar. The mine was practically worked out years ago. In working the main seam eight feet thick what is known as a "dip" or basin was encountered. For a space of six or eight acres the coal dipped down from all sides and found a basin.

This basin was not entered at that time. The gangway split at the edge, and travelling around on both sides met again at the opposite edge, so it was left after all the rest of the mine had been worked out.

About one year ago work was begun to mine the coal in the basin. A gangway was driven right down through the centre from the point where the old gangway split. This was to be driven right through and out at the other end.

As it advanced cross headings were driven up the sides of the basin on each side of the old gangway to get the coal out. The gangway through the roof of the basin had been driven almost through.

The three men, Craigie, Rivers and Schelling, were at work driving it further. About one hundred feet back of them a cross heading had been driven up the side of the basin to one of the old gangways. About one hundred and fifty feet back of this another cross heading had been driven up the opposite side and had almost reached the old gangway on that side.

THE FLOOD.

In this old gangway, unknown to the officials, a large body of water had gathered, and the men employed in driving the heading at eleven o'clock last Wednesday fired the blast that broke through into the old gangway and liberated the great body of water.

These men managed to make their escape with great difficulty and at great peril. But Craigie, Rivers and Schelling, who were at work in the new gangway, twenty-five feet beyond this point, were shut in.

They heard the roar of the water and tried to escape back along the gangway, but before they were reached the cross heading, from which it was rushing, they were up to their waists in water, which they could not see and could not get out of.

They had one chance for life.

They turned and ran back to the other cross heading, which was driven up the side of the basin. They reached it with the water up to their armpits and scrambled up it. It pitched upward at an angle of fifty degrees and in that steep pitch was their salvation.

They scrambled up one hundred feet only to find all exit to the old gangway hopelessly blocked by fallen coal and rubbish accumulated in the years since the workings were abandoned.

men, led by the two superintendents, entered the mine and proceeded up to their necks in water. The flood which it was supposed had broken the dead bodies of the imprisoned miners would be found. The journey was one of great peril, as the water had washed great heaps of rails and rubbish into the gangway.

VOICES FROM THE DARKNESS.

When near the foot of the dip to their surprise and great joy faint shouts were heard, and in a cross heading a few feet away the three men were found.

It was found impossible to get at the men up the steep incline. Work was sent to the outside and a ladder was procured and a raft rigged up. A man lying at full length pushed himself along the gangway, reaching the top of the dip, to the mouth of the heading, at the top of which the men were.

He shouted and hammered. At first he heard no sound, as men who were standing by his side, and he knew the men lived.

At half-past four, the water being a foot lower, another man went in the same way and reached the top of the dip, and the side of the dip, and an hour later, one at a time on this floating raft, the three imprisoned men were brought.

Rivers, who has the constitution and physique of a giant, was able to walk and was in full possession of his senses.

Schelling, a sturdy Polisher, was also in good condition, but Craigie was wandering in his mind and was not able to stir a limb.

Their comrades, who welcomed the men from their living grave, cheered and shouted, and then wept over their children.

Mr. W. L. Morris, who was waiting below, gave them the needed stimulants and remedies, and they were borne in triumph to the foot of the shaft and at half-past six A. M. were taken once more to the light of day.

Hundreds of people thronged the mouth of the shaft intensely excited and anxious, and cheered wildly as the rescued men were borne out.

Men who never saw the men before clapped hands and cheered in unison. Many shed tears.

Women—and there were many present—burst into hysterical sobs.

The three men were placed in wagons waiting for them, and surrounded by the cheering crowd were taken slowly to their homes.

What a scene was presented at John Rivers' home! His quiet little wife, who had lost all hope of ever seeing him again, gave him a loving embrace after those bitterly anxious, well-nigh hopeless hours—coming through the little garden gate, walking supported by two friends.

Through the driving sleet and rain she ran to meet him. Covered with dirt and mud though he was she clasped him to her breast, kissed him, wept over him and thanked God for his infinite kindness.

When these two met those about the house turned away with tears filling their eyes. Clashed by his wife's arms, his children, who were waiting around him, he entered his home saved from a fate the most horrible imaginable and was put to bed and tenderly cared for.

Tracey, who is a young man of twenty-four years, was taken to his parent's home, and under the doctor's soothing ministrations soon fell into a deep sleep.

Schelling, the Polisher, was taken to his home, where a wife and three children and many friends waited upon him with the same loving care.

But little outward manifestations of joy were seen. He too, was able to walk into the house almost unaided, was put to bed and soon fell asleep.

JOHN RIVERS' STORY.

At one o'clock to-day I visited the home of John Rivers, who was the first of the three men to be rescued. He is the most highly esteemed citizen of that place. He is about thirty-five years old, industrious and sober, and for many years a member of the Methodist church.

He was born in Pennsylvania, and has lived in this State for fifteen years and has built for himself a comfortable home.

His strong, kindly face showed marks of the sufferings he had undergone. His frame, powerful though it was, was racked by pain and stiffened with cramps. His eyes were red and his hands were swollen. He told the story of his experience with steady self-possession.

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NO CONGRESS LIKELY TO PASS.

Adoption of the Lithographers' Amendment Will Probably Kill the Measure.

ITS FRIENDS DISCOURAGED.

Sioux Indians Plead for More Schools—Snubbed by Commissioner Morgan.

GENERAL RAUM DENOUNCED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU, CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. Y., WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1891.

The International Copyright bill, the lithographers' amendment, and the bill to amend the copyright law, prepared and sent here was adopted by a vote of 23 yeas to 10 nays.

The lithographic amendment, as it is called, provides that the law shall apply to charts, engravings, musical compositions, lithographs and photographs copyrighted in the United States the same as to copyrighted books—that is, that the work shall be executed in this country.

The friends of the bill opposed this amendment because its adoption at this late day would send the bill to conference and cause it again to run the gantlet of another passage in the House.

But the lithographers were well organized. They had the opponents of the bill in the Senate as a nucleus to begin with, and in addition to these they enlisted the sympathies of such clever debaters as Frye, Hale, McPherson, Ingalls and Manderson, and in this way gradually developed sufficient strength to carry their point.

The bill as amended will probably pass the Senate to-morrow, although it may be still further amended before final action is taken upon it. If the friends of the original bill make no opposition to the measure in its amended form when it goes to conference it may yet become a law.

But if they insist that the conferees shall restore it to its original form, the outlook for its passage is not at all favorable.

ITS ADVOCATES DISCOURAGED.

Mr. R. T. Johnson, of the Joint Executive Committee, who is in charge of the bill, has been told by two of the members of the committee that they are discouraged by the opposition of the Senate.

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involved, and the claim agent sharks, with customary voracity, are after the ducks.

They realize that they have a fighting chance and they are pushing the fight in their own peculiar way. They have as their ally and firm supporter Senator Quay, the yeoman leader of the republican party, and of course enjoy the powerful and secret influence which he holds.

On the other hand they are confronted by a solid phalanx of honest republicans and democrats in the House, who represent the body of constituents of the country.

The feeling in the House is violent and bitter against fraud abuse by the claim agent sharks, and I can state authoritatively that the prospects of success of Senator Quay's amendment are not ones in a hundred.

The sub-committee of the House Committee on Appropriations having charge of the Pension Appropriation bill will take that measure up to-morrow morning and consider the amendment which Senator Quay has introduced.

The sub-committee consists of Representative Morrow, of California, chairman; Representatives Holden, of New York, and Peters, of Kansas, members; and Representatives Sayers, of Texas, and Breckinridge, of Kentucky, democratic members.

Of these gentlemen Representatives Peters, Sayers and Breckinridge are avowed enemies of Senator Quay's amendment. They form a majority of the sub-committee and will recommend a non-concurrence in the amendment.

The House will endorse their recommendation and the conference committee which will be appointed will be inclined to concur in the non-concurrence.

SCATHING DENUNCIATION OF COMMISSIONER RAUM'S ACTS BY THE MINORITY.

The minority of the Raun investigating committee, in submitting their views, say the Commissioner has been engaged in selling to certain employees of the Pension Office shares of stock in a corporation or company of which he is president, which is organized for the purpose of introducing a patent refrigerator which, it is claimed, is impracticable and worthless, and that in consideration for such purchases said employees are promoted in office, and that he has recently by an unjust and partial ruling advanced and caused to be taken up over other many thousands of claims of a certain Washington attorney, and that in consideration thereof the attorney has become surety on the note of Commissioner Raun in a bank in Washington for \$25,000.

General Raun testified in the most emphatic manner that the list and book exhibited contained the names of all the owners of stock in the corporation except two gentlemen of Cincinnati "who had a right to have issued to them some of the shares of the stock. Notwithstanding this sweeping statement he subsequently appeared before the testimony of Mr. Snyder that others, not named by General Raun and not mentioned on the book list, owned stock in the Universal Refrigerating Company.

The investigation proceeded until near its close without revealing the fact that a corporation supposed to be a bona fide business enterprise had been organized by General Raun, Bradley Tanner and five others (whose names General Raun refused to give) for the purpose of doing business in the District of Columbia under the patent of the "Universal Refrigerating Company," and differing from it only in name, the title of the subsidiary company being the "Columbia Universal Refrigerating Company."

Both General Raun and Bradley Tanner had received from the Pension Office, as a reward for their services, a certain amount of stock in the Universal Refrigerating Company, and the existence of the Columbia Universal Refrigerating Company was known to the minority of the committee until almost at the close of the investigation, when General Raun was compelled to admit the existence of such an organization and that Bradley Tanner, an employee of the Pension Office, owned stock in the same, and subsequently admitted that Assistant Secretary Bussey owned stock in the same.

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SPLIT INTO FACTIONS.

OVER A NEW SCHOOL.

Some Three Dozen Wealthy Residents of Irvington on the Hudson Start a Merry War Against What Seems a Public Need.

THEY TAKE THE CASE TO ALBANY.

Where the Superintendent of Public Instruction Sits Down Heavily Upon Them—Millionaires Who Would Not Join in the Movement.

The beautiful and romantic town of Irvington on the Hudson is just now, and has been for months back, rent asunder by a vulgar civil war, of which the active cause is a question of school houses.

To make matters worse, this war is, in a way, a war of classes, in which some rich and influential people are opposing their poorer neighbors. Some of these wealthy people are—James H. Whitehouse, Elphail Wood, Samuel Goodman, general freight agent of the New York Central road; William K. Preston, Thomas H. Walter, F. O. Matthews, the well known sugar refiner; David Dowd, Jr.; James C. Fargo, Charles T. Barney and Charles L. Barry.

The whole difficulty arose in this way. Last August, at the annual school meeting of the district, ex-School Trustee John Sullivan, of East Irvington, introduced a resolution to raise \$10,000 by tax for the purpose of erecting a new school house in his village. The meeting, which was attended by 321 persons, finally voted to adjourn until September 2 for the purpose of considering this question. On the latter date only eighty-five persons attended the meeting and approved Sullivan's resolution.

WHERE THE TROUBLE LIES.

Now, as soon as the action of this adjourned meeting became known about there was great indignation among those who were opposed to giving East Irvington a ten thousand dollar school house. They claimed that no proper notice had been given of the time and place of the adjourned meeting. They asserted that Mr. William A. Burnham, the president of the School Board, had conspired with John Sullivan, of East Irvington, in putting up notices of the meeting in barrooms and other resorts where the four hundred of the district would be least likely to see them. Finally they claimed that East Irvington had no need of a new school house. They pointed to the fact that the big graded school of Irvington proper was less than a mile's walk (by a short cut) from East Irvington, and that the said school had ample accommodation for more pupils if said pupils desired to be educated there.

The kickers, therefore, appealed to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to have the \$10,000 resolution declared null and void on the ground that the action of the adjourned meeting should not have been printed in a Tarrytown newspaper, and also that the new schoolhouse was unnecessary, expensive, and a waste of money because there was only an average attendance of about fifty children at that point. The petition on appeal was signed by thirty-seven of Irvington's wealthy taxpayers, including the names given above, and presented to State Superintendent Draper on January 12 last by Lawyer William W. Bryan, of No. 111 Broadway, who argued the appeal.

DRAVER'S WET BLANKET.

Superintendent Draper, however, found the notice of the adjourned meeting of September 2, amply sufficient, and that no publication in a newspaper was necessary, as no newspaper was actually published in the district at that time. He refused now only remains for the School Board to call a special meeting of the district to approve the plans and specifications for the new school house, which will be built within the next week or so. There is going to be a fight over this, however, for the kickers have given out that they will not agree to a school house which shall cost more than \$5,000.

WHY THE NEW HOUSE IS NECESSARY.

I saw Mr. William A. Burnham, the president of the School Board, at his office in Irvington yesterday. Mr. Burnham was very glad, he said, to explain the matter in its true bearings to the HERALD. This new school house, he said, is "improvement of the business which the school board of East Irvington are mostly people of moderate means, the bulk of the taxpayers in the district are poor, and the school house which shall cost more than \$5,000, which cannot accommodate those who want to enjoy its advantages, and which it is impossible to keep warm and dry in the winter. I ought to add that the school board reported on the two successive annual school meetings preceding the last one.

The School Board, as at present constituted, consists of myself as president and James Mulligan, John Dennis, Elphail Wood and Jared Barritte, trustees. The last two gentlemen were elected at the meeting of Saturday last, and I am told that they are employed by Lawyer Bryan to go around among the wealthy taxpayers and get their signatures to the new school house bill presented to the State Superintendent of Instruction.

JAY GOULD WOULD'N'T SIGN.

"Mr. Bryan went with his appeal to the principal taxpayers, including Gould, Cyrus W. Field, E. S. Jaffray and others, all of whom refused to sign the petition, declaring that they did not believe in the new school house. They would not have a model school house if they wanted one and declaring their entire willingness to pay their share of the tax. The thirty-seven taxpayers who did sign the petition, however, say that their chief objection is to the building of so expensive a school house. They claim that the school house which shall cost \$10,000, but they ought to know that such a substantial brick building, without extending the present school house, would be a great improvement and afford ample accommodations to the children of East Irvington who desire to attend.

Another school meeting is being called, at which the decision of the State Superintendent directs us to call these opponents of fair play will do everything in their power to block our enterprise. But the school board will stand by the people of the district as with us and that the kickers will be outvoted at every point."

INDIANS TO BE ENLISTED.

YOUNG BUCS TO BE FORMED INTO COMPANIES AND ATTACHED TO REGULAR REGIMENTS.

[FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.]

HERALD BUREAU, CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. Y., WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1891.

An important feature of the programme for the future treatment of the Indian question is the scheme now being prepared by the War Department for the enlistment of a number of young bucks for service in the ranks of the army. It is proposed to enlist about two thousand, including six or seven hundred scouts. A separate regiment, composed entirely of Indians, will not be organized, as at first proposed by some of the army officers, for the reason that it is not regarded as perfectly safe to bring such a large body of uncivilized and treacherous people together. Separate companies, however, will be organized and attached to each of the infantry and cavalry regiments serving in the West.

These companies will be officered by officers specially selected for their knowledge of Indian habits and customs, and will be trained in the method of enlistment, management, discipline, etc., have not yet been settled, but it is the purpose to have all the companies as closely assimilated as the governing white soldiers as the character and habits of the Indians will admit. The same uniform will be provided, they will be armed with the same weapons, they will be subject to the same discipline, and the method of instruction will be similar, except that it will be somewhat simplified to suit the intelligence of the new class of recruits.

The plan is strongly recommended by General Miles, who believes that future peace